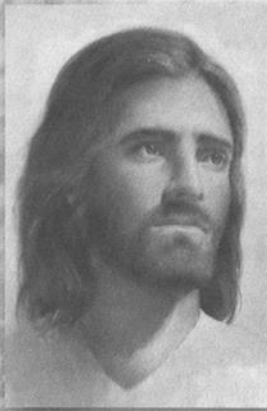


# 1 Lutherans (Historic)



## A Message from Martin Luther

Where eternal life and salvation are concerned, St. Peter and all godly men dismiss all other doctrines and know of none but that of this one Man Christ, of whom St. Peter declares: "You have the words of eternal life." Those words will satisfy me. This is beautifully spoken. He [Peter] will . . . cling to His [Christ's] words. And to them we, too, will

adhere; for these words impart eternal life. St. Peter hits the nail on the head. (LW 23:194)

## Opening Prayer

L: Jesus said, "Do you want to go away as well?"

**P: Peter's response is also ours: "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life."** (John 6:68)

L: Blessed are those who hear the Word of God and keep it.

**P: Lord, keep us steadfast in Your Word!**

L: Open our eyes, O Lord, that we may behold wondrous things out of Your Word.

**P: Amen!**

## Core Truths

What do the following verses have to say about Christ's work of salvation for you?

**John 3:16–17**

**1 John 2:2**

What do the following verses have to say about our ability to make a contribution to our own salvation apart from the indwelling of Christ?

**Acts 5:31; 11:18**

**Romans 8:7**

**Ephesians 2:1**

If the preceding passages are true (and we believe they are), how is it possible for anyone even to believe in Jesus? Use **Romans 10:17**; **Ephesians 2:8–9**; and **John 11:38–44** for guidance in your discussion.

## Only the Word

What do the following Bible verses have to say about the inspiration and authority of the Word?

**John 20:31**

**2 Timothy 3:16–17**

**2 Peter 1:21**

What do the following verses say about the power of the Word?

**Isaiah 55:10–11**

**Jeremiah 1:12**

**Jeremiah 23:29**

**1 Thessalonians 2:13**

In what way does this teaching of both the inspiration and the power of the Word provide you with comfort and certainty in your salvation?

## Certain Faith

In what way do the following verses show you how Baptism is God's act for you, delivering forgiveness to you?

**John 3:3**

**Titus 3:5–7**

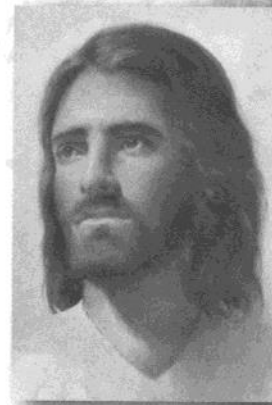
**1 Peter 3:21**

What are the key words in **Matthew 26:26–28** that show how Holy Communion is also God's act for you, delivering forgiveness to you?

When you understand clearly that the Word, Baptism, and Holy Communion are God's ways of delivering salvation to you, what perspective does this give you on the Third Commandment, "Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy" (**Exodus 20:8**)?

## Church Body

# *The Lutheran Church Missouri Synod*



## History

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod was formed in 1847 by twelve pastors and fifteen congregations as “The German Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Missouri, Ohio, and Other States.”

## Vital Statistics

The LCMS has approximately 2.5 million members. The international headquarters is located in St. Louis, Missouri. Source: [www.lcms.org](http://www.lcms.org).

## Source of Doctrine

The LCMS bases its doctrine on the inerrant Word of God found in the Scriptures and, as an exposition of the Scriptures, the Lutheran Confessions found in the Book of Concord.

## Role of Christ/Way of Salvation

Salvation is a free gift given by grace through faith in Christ Jesus. Even faith is a free gift of God that humankind plays no role in. We simply receive the free gift of faith through the Word and in our Baptism. Salvation is found in Christ alone.

## Sacraments

Baptism bestows forgiveness, rescue from death and the devil, and the gift of faith to eternal salvation. In Holy Communion, the communicant receives the true body and blood of Christ in, with, and under the bread and the wine for forgiveness and strengthening of faith.